



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

August 10, 2005

**FORMER EL PASO BORDER PATROL AGENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING**

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal judge in El Paso today sentenced former Border Patrol Agent Noe Aleman, Jr., to one year incarceration for alien smuggling.

United States District Judge Kathleen Cardone ordered the Aleman serve six months of his sentence in federal prison followed by six months of home confinement. Judge Cardone also ordered that Aleman be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

"As a Border Patrol agent, Mr. Aleman was entrusted to uphold U.S. immigration laws, not break them," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On April 25, 2005, a federal jury in El Paso convicted Aleman of conspiracy to defraud the United States and two substantive counts of alien smuggling. From January 5, 2004, to June 15, 2004, in order to circumvent age limits of U.S. immigration and legal adoption policies he attempted to adopt three teenage girls from Mexico, ages fourteen, sixteen and eighteen. Testimony during trial revealed that Aleman provided false testimony to the adoption court in order to adopt them. He also obtained crossing documents for the teenagers through false statements. Those orders purportedly were for the girls to legally enter the United States on March 12, 2004, to attend court hearings for one day. The crossing documents prohibited the girls from staying in the United States past March 12, 2004. Jurors found that Aleman knowingly violated the orders, keeping the girls in the United States after March 12, 2004. Jurors also found that he repeatedly provided false information to the United States and the adoption court regarding their ages, whereabouts and parentage.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General and Office of Internal Audit together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys J. Brandy Gardes and Stephen Garcia prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

#####